

REMARKS

Claims 1-18 are pending in the application.

Figure 3 was objected to because it was informal. Applicants attach herewith a formal Figure 3 (replacement sheet). Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the objection to Figure 3.

Claims 1, 2, 3, 4, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b). Claims 5, 6, 7, 12, 13, 14, 16, 17 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections for at least the reasons stated in the response having a mailing date of May 19, 2005 and file a Notice of Appeal concurrently herewith.

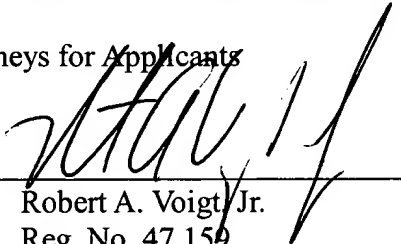
CONCLUSION

As a result of the foregoing, it is asserted by Applicants that claims 1-18 in the Application are in condition for allowance, and Applicants respectfully request an allowance of such claims. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner call Applicants' attorney at the below listed number if the Examiner believes that such a discussion would be helpful in resolving any remaining issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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184-P163US 10/28/2005

IN THE DRAWINGS

Applicants have attached herewith a replacement sheet for Figure 3 which was previously informal.